

I have been an active Amateur Radio Operator since 1977 and currently hold an Amateur Extra license. I have been active in both local emergency communications groups and the United States Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System. Amateur radio has been a great part of my life and has influenced both my personal and professional life. In 2009 I relocated to a neighborhood with a restrictive deed that does not allow me to install outside antennas. When I purchased the property I was well aware of the restrictions and the implications to my Amateur station. While this has been a challenge I have been able to install a high frequency antenna in my attic and successfully operate the 80 meter to 10 meter bands utilizing a tuner. I also have installed a VHF/UHF antenna and have no problems communicating with stations several miles away.

While I would welcome the opportunity to be able to install an outside antenna, I must oppose the idea of the Federal Communications Commission overriding a private restriction that was voluntarily and openly agreed to. As for the matter of restrictive covenants and or deed restrictions being an impediment to emergency communications, I believe that this is a very limited due to the following.

Most local disaster communications will be provided at the disaster scene between portable / mobile stations to an incident command center.

If a high frequency communications is required most responders are trained and practiced in setting up temporary stations and antennas.

If an Amateur Radio Station is in the affected area chances are the outside antennas would not survive anyway.

I realize there have been instances where Amateur Radio stations in the affected area have initiated communications, but these times are limited considering the amount of emergency and disaster situations occurring each year where Amateur Radio takes an active role.

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